Ref. D/12

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MINEHEAD

REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1970

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To the Minehead Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for 1970 on the health of the Minehead Urban District.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

Area: 2,739 acres
Population: 7,630 (Registrar General's mid-year Estimate)
Rateable Value: £527,927
Sum represented by a penny rate: £2,100

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the year

	TOTAL	Male	Female
Live Births: Legitimate	79	39	40
Illegitimate	4	3	1
Still Births: Legitimate..	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Deaths from all causes	157	63	94
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	-	-	-

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population: 10.9

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population: 20.6

England and Wales

Estimated Mid-Year Home Population: .. 48,987,700

	Number	Rate
Live Births	784,482	16.0 per 1,000 population
Still Births	10,341	13.0 per 1,000 total births
Deaths	575,208	11.9 per 1,000 population
Infant Mortality (deaths under 1 year of age) ..	14,269	11.7 per 1,000 live births

Deaths

Cause	TOTAL	Male	Female
Other infective and parasitic diseases ..	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	5	2	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Larynx	1	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus ..	3	3	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	4	1	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	1	1	-

/Leukaemia ...

	TOTAL	Male	Female
Leukaemia..	-	-	-
Other Malignant Neoplasms	7	3	4
Diabetes Mellitus	-	-	-
Anaemias	-	-	-
Mental Disorders	1	-	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc.	1	-	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	2	1	1
Hypertensive Disease	4	2	2
Ischaemic Heart Disease	33	17	16
Other forms of Heart Disease	15	1	14
Cerebrovascular Disease	32	9	23
Other Diseases of Circulatory System ..	13	5	8
Influenza	-	-	-
Pneumonia	13	3	10
Bronchitis and Emphysema	7	4	3
Asthma	-	-	-
Other Diseases of Respiratory System ..	2	2	-
Peptic Ulcer	-	-	-
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	1	1	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	1	-
Other Diseases of Digestive System ..	-	-	-
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	1	-
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System ..	2	1	1
Diseases of skin, subcutaneous tissue ..	1	1	-
Diseases of musculo-skeleto system ..	1	-	1
Congenital Anomalies	1	-	1
Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions ..	-	-	-
Motor Vehicle Accidents	-	-	-
All other Accidents	1	-	1
Suicide and Self-inflicted Injuries ..	2	2	-
All other external causes	1	1	-
TOTAL ALL CAUSES..	157	63	94

Climatic Conditions

Rainfall	1969	1970
Annual	37.72 ins.	34.02 ins.
Average Yearly	33.4 ins.	33.00 ins.
From 1st June to 30th September	10.83 ins.	11.81 ins.
Days during period less than 0.01 ..	80	75
Days during period with 0.01 and 0.04	15	10
Days during period more than 0.04 ..	27	38

Temperatures		
Highest Air 8th July	80°F.	85°F.
Lowest Air 5th and 8th Janurary	24°F.	24°F.
Lowest Air 27th December	18°F.	32°F.
Lowest Air during period 1st June - 30th September	39°F.	42°F.

Prevalence and Control over Infectious Disease

Notifiable Diseases

	TOTAL	Male	Female
Measles	25	14	11
Scarletina	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	1	1	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-
Dysentery	1	-	1
Food Poisoning	-	-	-
Infective Jaundice	-	-	-
Acute Meningitis	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	1	1	-

In September 1970, a six year old girl became ill while travelling from South Wales to the Holiday Camp. She was admitted to hospital at Taunton where she was found to have Sonne Dysentery. She made a rapid recovery. The whole family returned home as soon as she was discharged from hospital. There were no further cases in the Camp. This episode was interesting because it revealed a previously unsuspected outbreak in the child's Infant School in South Wales.

A very large number of people come to the Holiday Camp from far and wide. It is not surprising that there are occasional importations of infectious disease. As a safeguard, the Infectious Disease Returns for the whole country are closely scrutinised. Thus, the Camp Doctor is forewarned if a camper from any area where there is a known outbreak of infectious illness reports sick.

There was one case of respiratory tuberculosis. The infection was acquired in London. Follow-up of the contacts at long range involved a considerable amount of work.

GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE DISTRICT

Home Nursing, Midwives and Home Helps

The services are provided by the Health Department of the Somerset County Council.

Hospitals

The Minehead and West Somerset Hospital is managed by the West Somerset Hospital Management Committee. The Hospital provides medical, surgical and casualty treatment and out-patient clinics. A Family Planning Clinic is held at the Hospital.

Health and Dental Clinic

These are provided by the Somerset County Council at 54 Summerland Avenue, Minehead.

Nursing Homes

There is one nursing home in the district which provides 15 beds.

/Ambulance Facilities ...

Ambulance Facilities

These facilities are provided by the Somerset County Council with ambulances stationed in Minehead.

Old Persons Homes

Wyndham House, Martlet Road, which has 33 beds, is maintained by the Somerset County Council's Social Services Department. There are six private residential homes for the aged with 123 beds. Seventeen old persons dwellings with Warden accommodation are provided by the Council with grant aid from the Somerset County Council.

HYGIENE AND SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

General

The number of inspections and visits made to various premises in the district was 1,144 and are detailed below:-

Abattoir	418
Food premises	102
Rodent control	41
Housing	25
Water Supplies	80
Public Health	242
Infectious Disease	1
Offices, Shops, etc. ..	235

Housing

The total number of dwellings in the district is 3,122. During the year 37 dwellings were erected by private enterprise.

The total number of applicants for Council houses at the end of the year was 146.

There was no case of overcrowding reported during the year.

Number of Post-War Houses erected from 1st April, 1945 to 31st December, 1970					
By Local Authority 273	By Private Enterprise 589				
No. of permanent dwellings in district as at 31.12.69 (a)	Gained from conversions and erected during 1970 (b)	Total (a) + (b)	Less dwellings demolished closed etc. during year	No. of permanent dwellings in district as at 31.12.70	
				L.A.	P.E.
L.A. 377	-	377	7	370	-
P.E. 2,711	43	2,754	2	-	2,752
TOTAL 3,088	43	3,131	9	3,122	

/Improvement Grants ...

Improvement Grants

Number of applications and houses dealt with by Local Authority during the year.

	Received		Approved	
	Applications	No. of Dwellings	Applications	No. of Dwellings
Improvement Grants	2	3	2	3
Standard Grants	9	9	9	9
Special Grants	-	-	-	-

Water Supplies

The supply of water to the town is undertaken by the West Somerset Water Board. There are six sources of supply with Nutscale supplying the bulk of the water to the town and the other sources are from Broadwood, Longwood, Periton, Middlecombe and Moor Brake. All the sources, except Moor Brake which is from a borehole, are collected from land springs. All the supplies are chlorinated.

Results of Samples taken for analysis

Raw water				Treated water			
Bacteriological		Chemical		Bacteriological		Chemical	
Satis-factory	Unsatis-factory	Satis-factory	Unsatis-factory	Satis-factory	Unsatis-factory	Satis-factory	Unsatis-factory
27	15	5	-	38	6	-	-

The supply of water was adequate during the year. Complaints have been made from time to time regarding the discolouration of the water which is due to the soft water corroding the iron mains. Frequent flushing of the mains was carried out by the Water Board.

Sewerage

The eastern sewerage system operated satisfactorily but the western area main sewer surcharged in August when heavy rain coincided with a high tide. The proposed new overflow manhole in Quay Street should prevent the flooding of the Quay Street cottages caused by this sewer surcharging.

Refuse Disposal

Further discussions with neighbouring authorities resulted in a decision being made to commence tipping at Rodhuish on 5th April, 1971 and Treborough Quarry on 1st April 1972. The closing of the Quay West tip will remove a long standing nuisance on the sea front and enable the Council to develop the site for amenity purposes.

/Rodent Control ...

Rodent Control

One part-time operator is employed to carry out the treatment of premises. Dwellinghouses are not charged for this service but the whole cost of treating business premises is recovered. During the year 61 properties were found to be infested with rats. A minor infestation of the sewers was found.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises

There has been a further substantial decline in the number of persons employed.

Premises	Number Registered	Number of persons Employed
Offices	48	417
Retail Shops	117	823
Wholesale Departments	2	16
Catering Establishments	18	882
Fuel Storage Depots	-	-
TOTAL	185	2,138

Factories

Particulars of premises registered under the Factories Acts, 1937 to 1959 and the inspections made are as follows:-

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health:-

	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	5	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	43	35	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	49	40	-	-

/2. ...

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Found	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
		Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness ..	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding ..	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature ..	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation ..	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors ..	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (a) Insufficient ..	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work) ..	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	-	-	-	-	-

3. Outwork:-

	No. of outworkers in August list required by section 110(1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel:						
Making etc.	17	-	-	-	-	-
Cleaning and washing	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	17	-	-	-	-	-

Swimming Pools

There are three swimming pools in Minehead. The Lido, Warren Road is privately owned, and is filled with sea water; two are in the Holiday Camp and are filled with fresh water from the Camp supply. The treatment adopted to maintain their purity is re-circulation, filtration and automatic chlorination.

Samples are taken frequently to ensure that the degree of chlorination is maintained and there is no trace of bacterial infection. Results of the tests indicated that in all the pools a safe bathing water was maintained.

/Holiday Camp...

Holiday Camp

The Camp caters for approximately 140,000 during the summer season. It is also open at Christmas. The Company provides a Hygiene Adviser who is, in fact, a retired qualified Public Health Inspector. Every effort was made to continue the improvement in the standard of hygiene. The proportion of chalet accommodation converted to self-service units was again increased. There are now709 self-service units at the Camp, which has reduced the number of prople served in the main dining hall.

INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

The general standard of cleanliness of all food premises in the town was satisfactory and only minor informal action needed to be taken in a few cases.

The number of premises in the district are as follows:-

Abattoir	1	Fried Fish Shops	3
Bakehouses	0	Fruiterers and Greengrocers	10
Bakers' Shops ..	3	Grocers and Confectioners	33
Butchers	6	Holiday Camp	1
Cafes	16	Hostels	1
Chemists	5	Hotels with restaurants ..	9
Clubs, etc.	8	Hotels, Residential	38
Canteens	2	Licensed Premises	9
Church Halls	6	Pie Factory	1
Dairies	1	Restaurants	8
Dairy Shops	2	School Kitchens	4
Fishmongers	2	Snack Bars	3

Milk

Number of Milk Samples taken in Minehead Urban District during 1970

Pasteurised	49
Ultra-Heat Treated	1
Untreated	2
	52

The two untreated samples which were collected from Mr. F. G. Baker within the Urban District were both negative to the test for Brucella. He is licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in the Rural District of Williton at Greenaleigh Farm, Minehead.

Two of the pasteurised samples failed the Methylene Blue test and two the phosphatase test.

Ice Cream

One property is registered for the manufacture and sale of ice cream and 58 premises for the sale of ice cream.

Meat

There is one privately owned abattoir in the district supplying meat for their own sales.

/Carcases inspected and condemned:- ...

Carcases inspected and condemned:-

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	319	-	3	1940	800	-
Number inspected	319	-	3	1940	800	-
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	83	-	-	11	26	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	26%	-	-	1%	3%	-
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cysticercosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

Weight of meat condemned (in lbs.) for:-	All animals
(a) Tuberculosis	-
(b) Cysticercosis	-
(c) Other	584
Total (in lbs.) condemned	584

/Food Condemned ...

Food Condemned

Meat	318 lbs.
Canned Meat and meat products	59 tins and cartons
Bacon	210 lbs.
Vegetables	126 tins
Fruit	415 tins
Frozen Foods (Various)	Value £42
Fish	36 lbs and 13 tins
Fruit Juice	22 tins

Food Poisoning

No cases of salmonella food poisoning were notified, although one case of salmonella typhimurium was admitted to the hospital from outside the town.

No substantial changes in the health of the Urban Districtoccurred during 1970. The western sewer continued to give cause for concern. The closure of the Quay West Refuse Tip will be a considerable improvement.

I should like to record my appreciation of the work of your Public Health Inspector, Mr. Symes, during the year and to thank him and Mr. Burgess, your Clerk, for their continued assistance.

J. Beasley

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Taunton.

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